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## RUBBER CULTURE IS TOPIC CONSIDERED

(Continued from Page 1) furnish the man to do the work, the Division of Forestry to supply the necessary funds for salary and expenses. This plan met with Dr. Wilcox's hearty approval and later with that of the representatives of the four rubber plantations at Nahlku.

### Two Vital Points

"The two important points in which the success of the rubber industry in Hawaii turns are first, whether the trees yield latex in commercial quantities, and second, whether the latex can be collected and prepared for market at a profit. Until these questions are definitely answered the rubber industry must remain in the experimental stage. From the tapplings of larger trees that have so far been made in Hawaii there is every reason to be sanguine over the flow of latex. The present investigation should go a long way toward throwing light on the cost of handling the product, for the figures that are being collected refer not alone to the tapping of the trees but include as well the several steps of collecting the rubber from the trees, getting it to the drying house, making it into a commercial product and preparing it for shipment.

"In working out the details of the experiment, the plan broadened somewhat in scope, so that as it now stands the work that it is proposed to do falls under four main heads, as follows:

### Four Main Heads

"First—Experimental tapplings to determine the cost of collecting latex under conditions of commercial practice.

"Second—Comparative tests of different methods of tapping to ascertain which one is best adapted to the local conditions, in view of cost, time required, effect on the flow of latex, and general influence on the tree.

"Third—A study of the methods of handling latex after it has been collected, with special reference to control by chemicals or by other means, so that as large a percentage as possible may be sold as high-grade rubber. The best way of handling the "scrappings" is an important phase of this problem.

"Fourth—A study of methods of cultivation and fertilization, to find out how through these means the rubber trees may be brought sooner to the point of tapping, or by increased vitality be made to yield larger quantities of latex at an earlier age or for a longer period of flow.

### Spacing of Trees

"Along with the main points enumerated much information should also be got on such related matters as the best spacing of the trees, the appropriate season of the year for planting, intercultural crops, and the like.

"The work under the third head, methods of chemical control, will be performed at the laboratory of the Hawaii Experiment Station in Honolulu, as it is of a character requiring special equipment and knowledge only possessed by a trained chemist. There are enough rubber trees on the station grounds and in the Tantalus forest to provide the necessary latex. All the rest of the work will be done in the field on the several rubber plantations.

"The terms of the cooperative agreement as it now stands are that the Hawaii Experiment Station shall furnish the agent in charge of the field work and shall undertake the chemical and other studies requiring laboratory equipment; the Division of Forestry pays the salary of the agent and the other necessary expenses. For this purpose \$1200 has been set apart from the appropriation of the Division. Each of the four rubber plantations at Nahlku has agreed to furnish one laborer for such time as may be needed, to work under the direction of the agent in charge but to be paid by the plantation.

"Early in September Dr. Wilcox, Mr. F. T. P. Waterhouse, and I visited Nahlku and worked out on the ground, in conference with the managers of the four rubber plantations the program that has since been put in effect. The investigation will be continued during the remainder of the present fiscal period, that is to June 30th, 1909. At its conclusion the results will be published either by the Experiment Station or by the Board of Agriculture and Forestry."

As he finished reading his paper, Mr. Hosmer was heartily applauded, the members of the Association ex-

pressing their appreciation of the spirit which prompted him to devote the time and study necessary to the preparation of the treatise.

Fred. T. P. Waterhouse then read the report of his investigations into the rubber industry in Ceylon, Malaya, and Java. Mr. Waterhouse gave a review of the conditions which he encountered in the course of his tour of investigation, answering all questions that were put to him by the members present.

In regard to the relative value of the Ceara or Hevea rubber tree—the former the one now planted in the islands and the latter the one more generally found in the great rubber districts—Mr. Waterhouse said:

"I certainly believe that the Hevea or Para rubber tree will pay better than the Ceara if the climate is warm enough for it. If, after experiment, it is demonstrated that Hevea can be grown here so that they will mature in say six or seven years, I should advise planting them. They are, as a general thing, far more productive and, the bark being thicker, the tapping offers a less serious problem than with the Ceara."

"How do our methods of handling the latex compare with those that you saw in use in other Ceara districts on your tour of investigation?" was asked of Waterhouse.

"I consider ours to be in advance of those in use in most districts," came the response. "In many instances managers complained of troubles that we have learned how to guard against with safety—for example, the coagulating of the latex between the time that it is drawn from the tree and its final deposit in the storehouse."

### F. T. P. Waterhouse's Address

Some twelve or fourteen years ago the then Commissioner of Agriculture of the Republic of Hawaii, introduced and disseminated through the islands a number of seeds of the Ceara rubber tree. No especial notice was taken of the results until about five years ago, when a tree, then seven or eight years of age, at Nahlku, Maui, was tapped and was found to yield an apparently good commercial article of rubber.

Upon further investigation a number of vigorous, healthy Ceara rubber trees were found to be growing in the various districts of the islands.

Upon the showing made several companies for the cultivation of rubber were formed and a considerable number of trees planted.

In the month of December, 1907, there were growing in the District of Koolau, Island of Maui, approximately twelve hundred acres of Ceara rubber trees and a very few trees of the Hevea and Castanea varieties.

In view of the possibilities of the rubber industry in this Territory; of the fact that Ceylon and the Malay Peninsula have engaged in the cultivation of rubber on a larger scale than any other part of the world and of the further fact that in Ceylon Ceara rubber had been profitably cultivated it was deemed advisable by some of the rubber growers of Hawaii and by the Board of Agriculture and Forestry to send someone to that section of the world to make observations as to means and methods used there in connection with the industry, and to report thereon for the benefit of the industry and the public in Hawaii.

With this object in view it was decided that, as I was about to visit the Malay Peninsula in the interest of the firm I am connected with, that I should extend my proposed trip, the expenses being partially paid by those interested in the rubber industry in Hawaii and by the Board of Agriculture and Forestry.

In accordance with this purpose, I was duly commissioned by the Board of Agriculture and Forestry, and left Honolulu on the 15th day of November, 1907, arriving at Singapore on the 16th day of December following.

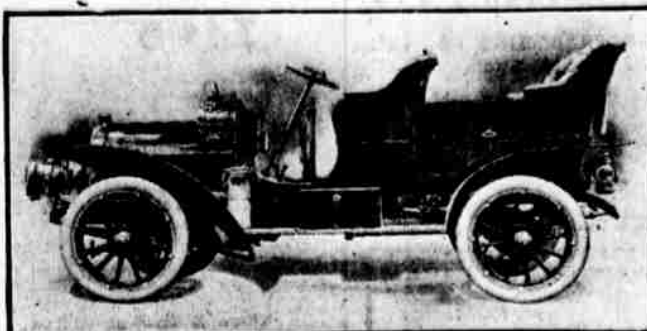
From my arrival at Singapore until the 18th day of January I visited many of the principal rubber plantations in the Federated Malay States. Arriving at Colombo, Ceylon, on January 23d, I spent ten days visiting plantations, sailing for Java on the 1st of February. Eight days were spent in Java and I arrived again at Singapore Sunday, February 23d.

From then on to the time of my departure, February 29th, I spent on the plantations in the Province of Johore.

Hevea or "Para" rubber does best where the temperature does not go below 60 degrees, but localities where the temperature does not go below 65 degrees are preferred. The temperature in Malaya and Ceylon does not vary more than four degrees between the cooler and warmer months. The climate is very humid. January is the coolest month, while March is the warmest. This applies to Kuala Lumpur, State of Selangor, F. M. S., which is about the center of the largest plantings in Malaya.

The planting of Hevea tree is done in different ways. Unquestionably trees planted "at stake" grow much quicker than trees planted in any other way and if the seeds were plentiful at all seasons of the year there probably would be more planting "at stake." In Ceylon the method that is considered the best is to plant the seeds in women palm leaf baskets

(Continued on Page 4.)



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## Stevens - Duryea Light Six

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Event No. 17 was won by

## Stevens - Duryea Light Six

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